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Message Text

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15
ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

NEA-09 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

SP-02 INRE-00 L-02 ARA-10 H-02 PM-03 /059 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS SPOULAIN:MDK
APPROVED BY S/PRS ROBERT L. FUNSETH
S/S-O : APSHANKLE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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TOSEC 727

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORT, TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 18, 1975.

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS.

NO. 32

SUMMARY: HAK REPORTS STILL SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENT BUT PLANS REMAIN IN AREA UNTIL CLEAR ONE WAY OR OTHER.

NEWSPAPER BEIRUT REPORTS HAK RECENTLY SENT MESSAGE TO CASTRO TO IMPROVE RELATIONS THRU SYRIAN FM KHADDAM.

SPECIAL NOTE: HEARST BUR CHIEF THEIS ADVISES BALT NEWS AMER DURING CONVERSION TO NEW TYPE LAST WEEK, COMPUTER SUFFERED BREAKDOWN./ BOST HERALD MAR 11 AND 13 CARRIED WALLACH NEWS ANALYSIS FEATURES ON ME AND CYPRUS.
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WIRES:

1. UPI: HAK SAID TUESDAY THERE WAS STILL "SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENT" IN THE WAY OF A NEW ACCORD BETWEEN EGYPT AND

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ISRAEL FOR A FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL EAST OF THE SUEZ CANAL.

BOTH HE AND PRESIDENT SADAT CONCEDED THAT AGREEMENT MAY NOT BE REACHED IN HAK'S LATEST SHUTTLE MISSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HAK SAID HE WOULD REMAIN IN THE AREA UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

SADAT SAID THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT YET EVEN ON THE PRINCIPLES OF A NEW ACCORD FOR WHAT HE CALLED A "VERY LIMITED WITHDRAWAL."

TWO HOURS BEFORE HAK ARRIVED HERE FROM EGYPT, DM PERES TOLD A HEBREW UNIVERSITY AUDIENCE THAT ISRAEL WANTS A "POSITIVE CHANGE" IN ITS RELATIONS WITH EGYPT AND WAS WILLING TO TAKE ITS TIME IN NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH HAK TO ACHIEVE IT.
"LET'S NOT DO A HASTY JOB SO EVERYONE WILL REGRET IT THE NEXT DAY," PERES SAID. "THE TEST OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS THE CREATION OF THE SITUATION WHICH WILL COME IN THE WAKE OF IT."

HAK RETURNED FROM HIS THIRD SHUTTLE TO EGYPT BRINGING "NEW IDEAS" FROM SADAT THAT HE PRESENTED TO ISRAELI PM RABIN AND THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATORS.

A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL ON HAK'S PLANE SAID AGREEMENT IS STILL POSSIBLE AND THINGS WERE NOT YET AT THE CRUNCH.

WHILE ISRAEL CONSIDERS ITS ANSWER IN THE LATEST BACK AND FORTH, HAK WILL FLY TO SAUDI ARABIA ON WEDNESDAY TO GET WHATEVER HELP HE CAN FROM KING FAISAL AND BRING HIM UP TO DATE ON THE TALKS.

SITTING BESIDE KISSINGER IN ASWAN, SADAT RULED OUT INCREASED TRADE AND TRAVEL BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS UNCLASSIFIED

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PART OF THIS AGREEMENT -- POINTS BELIEVED DESIRED BY ISRAEL.

SADAT ALSO SAID THAT AN END TO THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY, ALSO DESIRED NOW BY ISRAEL, WOULD HAVE TO BE PART OF A LATER OVERALL SETTLEMENT IN GENEVA.

THE EGYPTIAN LEADER TOLD QUESTIONERS HE HOPED TO KNOW BY THE TIME HAK RETURNED THURSDAY WHETHER AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE STRATEGIC SINAI MOUNTAIN PASSES AND OIL FIELDS.

SADAT ADDED TO THE PESSIMISTIC NOTE BEGINNING TO CREEP INTO THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SAYING THERE WAS AS YET NO

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AGREEMENT ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF A NEW ACCORD AND DECLARING THERE MIGHT NOT BE AN AGREEMENT AT ALL.

IF NOT, HE SAID, EGYPT WAS READY TO FACE WHAT COMES BUT IF THERE IS AN AGREEMENT, HE ADDED, IT WOULD BE A TURNING POINT.

A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL ECHOED THAT BY SAYING THERE WOULD BE NO AGREEMENT IF THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD NOT GET TOGETHER AND THAT BOTH OF THEM WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

THE OFFICIAL, SPEAKING ON HAK'S PLANE AS HE FLEW BACK TO ISRAEL, SAID THAT AN AGREEMENT DEFINITELY IS STILL POSSIBLE BUT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE TO BEGIN TO TAKE STOCK WHERE THEY STAND. END UPI.

2. AP: THE SECRETARY FLEW BACK TO ISRAEL AFTER THE MEETING WITH SADAT. THE SAUDI ARABIA STATE RADIO SAID HAK PLANNED TO INTERRUPT THE EGYPT-ISRAEL SHUTTLE WEDNESDAY FOR A FLIGHT TO RIYADH AND A MEETING WITH KING FAISAL ON HIS PEACE EFFORTS.

AFTER THE MEETING WITH SADAT, HAK REAFFIRMED HIS DETERMINATION TO STAY IN THE ME "UNTIL WE REACH AN AGREEMENT OR WE DON'T REACH AN AGREEMENT."

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NEWSMEN ASKED SADAT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AGREEING TO THE EXCHANGE OF TOURISTS. HE REPLIED, "WE HAVEN'T AGREED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THIS VERY LIMITED WITHDRAWAL. THIS ISSUE HAS TO BE DISCUSSED IN GENEVA.

ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TRADE WITH ISRAEL, SADAT SAID, "THIS IS NOT FEASIBLE. IT IS REALLY ABSURD TO DISCUSS IT. ALL THESE ISSUES WILL BE DISCUSSED IN GENEVA.

HAK WAS ASKED IF HE IS TRYING TO GET SYRIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS MOVING. "THE PROCESS OF PEACE APPLIES TO THE WHOLE AREA AND THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS," HE REPLIED.

SADAT WAS ASKED IF HE WOULD AGREE TO A LARGE BUFFER ZONE IN SINAI MANNED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IF ISRAEL WITHDRAWS FURTHER. "IT'S QUITE NATURAL," HE REPLIED. "UN FORCES

ARE ALREADY THERE."

THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR EGYPT WOULD NOT AGREE TO END THE STATE OF BELLIGERENCY "AS LONG AS AN ISRAELI SOLDIER IS ON

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MY LAND."

U.S. OFFICIALS TOLD NEWSMEN ON TUESDAY'S FLIGHT FROM JERUSALEM TO ASWAN THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE MOVING "A SHADE SLOWER" THAN HAK EXPECTED AT THE START OF HIS MISSION, NOW IN ITS 13TH DAY.

AP FROM JERUSALEM: PRESIDENT SADAT AND ISRAELI DF PERES BOTH GAVE GLOOMY ASSESSMENTS TODAY OF THE CHANCES OF HAK WO KING OUT A NEW AGREEMENT ON HIS CURRENT MIDEAST SWING.

"THERE IS A POSSIBILITY WE MAY NOT REACH AN AGREEMENT," SADAT SAID AFTER SEEING KISSINGER FOR 90 MINUTES AT HIS UPPER NILE VILLA. "I HAVE THE IMPRESSION IT IS A VERY HARD, DIFFICULT, COMPLEX ROUND."

PERES, SAID THE MAIN OBSTACLE WAS EGYPT'S FAILURE SO FAR
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TO OFFER ENOUGH POLITICAL CONCESSIONS FOR AN ISRAELI PULLBACK IN SINAI.

SITTING BESIDE SADAT IN ASWAN, KISSINGER HIMSELF TOLD NEWSMEN THAT "THERE ARE SEVERAL SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE VIEWS OF THE TWO SIDES...

3. UPI: HAK RECENTLY SENT A MESSAGE TO CUBAN LEADER FIDEL CASTRO TO TRY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND HAVANA, THE NEWSPAPER BEIRUT SAID TODAY.

THE NEWSPAPER SAID HAK SENT THE MESSAGE THROUGH SYRIAN FM KHADDAM WHO LEFT DAMASCUS FOR HAVANA SUNDAY TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF NONALIGNED COUNTRIES.

THE NEWSPAPER SAID THE AIM OF HAK'S MESSAGE WAS TO "SHOW GOOD INTENTIONS" BEFORE HIS FORTHCOMING TOUR OF LATIN AMERICAN STATES "WHICH HAVE STARTED SYMPATHIZING WITH CUBA."

IT SAID HAK CHOSE KHADDAM TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE "BECAUSE THIS WILL NOT RAISE SUSPICIONS IN WASHINGTON AND ESPECIALLY IN CONGRESS WHERE KISSINGER IS FACED LITH STRONG OPPOSITION."

NEWSPAPERS:

LA TIMES -- RESTON, P. 4: HAK TRANSMITTED NEW ISRAELI IDEAS TO PRESIDENT SADAT MONDAY NIGHT AS THE PACE OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES QUICKENED.

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THE SECRETARY IS NOW DELIBERATELY TRYING TO SPEED UP HIS NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW'ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, ACCORDING TO A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL WITH HAK 'S PARTY.

HAK BELIEVES THE MAIN ISSUES BEFORE THE TWO SIDES ARE FAIRLY WELL DEFINED. ONE RANKING US OFFICIAL SAID THE NO LONGER TAKES HOURS UPON HOURS TO DISCUSS AN ISSUE BEFORE GETTING AN ANSWER.
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IN THREE OR FOUR KEY AREAS, THIS OFFICIAL SAID, BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL UNDERSTAND THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES CLEARLY AND THUS ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO EACH OTHER FAIRLY QUICKLY. ...

IF HE CAN GET EGYPT AND ISRAEL TO AGREE ON THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THEIR DISPUTE, THEN HE IS LIKELY TO STAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS LONG AS NECESSARY TO NEGOTIATE THE DETAILS OF A NEW PEACE AGREEMENT.

IF HAK FAILS TO WIN AGREEMENT ON THE BROAD NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES, HE WILL LEAVE THE ME MORE QUICKLY, PROBABLY WITH A DIPLOMATIC FAILURE ON HIS HANDS.

HAK,ACCORDING TO A SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL, STILL DOES NOT RULE OUT THE COLLAPSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT HE NEVERTHELESS REMAINS HOPEFUL AND CONVINCED THAT THE TWO SIDES ARE MAKING PROGRESS SLOWLY. IT HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT SLOWER THAN HAK EXPECTED,THE OFFICIAL SAID. ...

THE PROBLEM FOR HAK AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS TO TRY TO FIT TOGETHER THE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS EGYPT IS DEMANDING FROM ISRAEL WITH THE POLITICAL CONCESSIONS ISRAEL INSISTS EGYPT MAKE. THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THE HAK MISSION DEPENDS ON WHETHER THE SECRETARY CAN MESH THESE MILITARY AND POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS TO THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH SIDES...

TV

1. ABC EVENING, 25 MINUTES INTO PROGRAM:
REASONER: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER FLEW TO ISRAEL FROM EGYPT TODAY FOR RENEWED TALKS ON THE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT. AS KISSINGER SHUTTLED BACK AND FORTH, PUBLIC STATEMENTS EXPRESS OPTIMISM AND PESSIMISM IN A RHYTHMIC PATTERN THAT ISNOT WITHOUT DESIGN. KOPPEL EXPLAINS.

KOPPEL: WHAT IS VISIBLE AT THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS RATHER LIKE A COMPLICATED PIECE OF MUSIC BEING SIMULTANEOUSLY
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ORCHESTRATED BY THREE CONDUCTORS. TWO OF THE MAESTROS APPEARED AT A JOINT NEWS CONF. IN ASWAN THIS AFTERNOON, AND WHILE ONE TRIED TO KEEP A RELATIVELY LIVELY BEAT GOING, THE OTHER CAME CLOSE TO CONDUCTING A DIRGE.

KISSINGER: AS I HAVE SAID ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE GAP HAS NARROWED, BUT IT ALWAYS REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER IT CAN FINALLY BE CLOSED.

SADAT:IT IS VERY HARD, DIFFICULT COMPLICATED ROUND.

KOPPEL: THAT BORDERED ON BEING SADAT'S MOST OPTIMISTIC NOTE OF THE DAY. WHEN SOMEONE RAISED THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL ACTS OF NONBELLIGERENCE, LIKE COMMERCE OR TOURISM PETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL, SADAT WAS UNYIELDING.

SADAT: YOU ARE RAISING ISSUES THAT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED THERE, IN GENEVA, AFTER THE FINAL SOLUTION. YOU DON'T RAISE SUCH ISSUES AS THESE NOW. AND IT'S REALLY ABSURD TO DISCUSS SUCH ISSUES LIKE THIS.

KOPPEL: AND FOR A POLITICAL DECLARATION OF NONBELLIGERENCY -- WHICH ISRAEL IS STILL DEMANDING -- FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MOUNTAIN PASSES AND THE OILFIELDS IN THE SINAI...

SADAT: WE SHALL NOT AGREE TO NONBELLIGERENCE AS MUCH AS THERE IS ANY FOREIGN SOLDIER ON OUR LAND.

KOPPEL: BY THE TIME SECRETARY K. LEFT ASWAN THIS AFTERNOON, THE MILITARY SADAT WAS LOOMING OMINOUSLY OVER THESE NEGOTIATIONS. IF SADAT HAD GIVEN KISSINGER ANY EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS, TO TAKE TO ISRAEL WITH HIM, HE HAD ALSO DONE A MASTERLY JOB OF CONCEALING THEM.

BUT THAT IS PRECISELY KISSINGER'S POINT. WHAT IS EMERGTNG PUBLICALLY BOTH IN EGYPT AND IN ISRAEL, IS NOT NECESSARILY AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES. BOTH SIDES HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN THE APPEARANCE OF TOUGHNESS, BUT KISSINGER REMAINS CONVINCED THAT CONCESS-IONS AND AN AGREEMENT ARE STILL POSSIBLE IF ONLY THE PUBLIC RHETORIC CAN BE TONED DOWN.
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2. NBC NIGHTLY NEWS, 25 MINUTES INTO SHOW:

CHANCELLOR: SECRETARY OF STATE HAK SAID TODAY IN JERUSALEM THAT THERE IS STILL SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENT

BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT OVER A NEW ISRAELI WITHDRAW'AL

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IN THE SINAI DESERT. BUT, KISSINGER SAID, HE WILL CONTINUE TO GO FROM ISRAEL TO EGYPT UNTIL HE EITHER WORKS OUT AN AGREEMENT, OR DECIDES THAT HE CAN'T. (NO VALERIANI).

3. CBS EVENING NEWS: 20 MINUTES INTO PROGRAM

MUDD: HAK'S EFFORTS TO BROKER A MIDDLE EAST PEACE APPEAR TO HAVE BOGGED DOWN. 'SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENT' WAS THE WAY HE REFERRED TO THE PROBLEM AFTER FURTHER TALKS IN EGYPT TODAY. MORE FROM MARVIN KALB.

KALB: THE SEC. DISCUSSED ISRAEL'S LATEST IDEAS WITH PRES. SADAT FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF. THERE 'AS NO BREAKTHROUGH, NO AGREEMENT ON ANY OF THE MAJOR ISSUES STILL DIVIDING THE TWO SIDES. SADAT HAD APPARENTLY EXPECTED ISRAEL TO SOFTEN HER DEMAND FOR NON-BELLIGERENCY. HE MISCALCULATED. ISRAEL INSISTED SHE WILL NOT GIVE UP HER OPTION FOR RENEWED WAR. SADAT GAVE HAK SOME NEW IDEAS FOR BREAKING THE DEADLOCK BUT WHEN THEY MET WITH NEWSMEN, THEY COULD NOT CONCEAL THEIR GLOOMY VISSION OF THE NEGOTIATION.

HAK: AS I HAVE SAID ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE GAP HAS NARROWED BUT IT ALWAYS REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER IT CAN FINALLY BE CLOSED.

SADAT: I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT, AS I TOLD YOU IN THE BEGINNING, IT IS VERY HARD, DIFFICULT, COMPLICATED ROUND.

KALB: BY THE TIME HE FLEW INTO ISRAEL THERE WAS NO HIDING THE FACT THAT THIS NEGOTIATION COULD STILL COLLAPSE, DESPITE HAK'S NON-STOP EFFORTS. HE CONFERRED TONIGHT WITH PM RABIN, URGING FLEXIBILITY AND UNDERSCORING HIS VIEW THAT AN IMPERFECT DEAL NOW IS A LOT BETTER THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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NO DEAL AT ALL. ...

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE061180
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/PRS SPOULAIN:MDK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750095-0339
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750399/baaaaguy.tel
Line Count: 368
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2003 by HageRS>; APPROVED <23 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006